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Congress of the United States
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GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION
TASK FORCE
Vice Chair

September 15, 2014

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor
State of California
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Brown:

We are writing to urge you to sign into law SB 967. This bipartisan landmark legislation creates an affirmative, conscious, and voluntary form of consent and institutionalizes best practices for preventing and addressing campus sexual assault. This survivor-centered approach to sexual assault cases enhances accountability by engaging community resources beyond campus, requiring universities to enter into memoranda of understandings to refer students for support and services. With your signature California can lead the nation on best practices for handling and ending the epidemic of sexual assault on campus.

No student should have to fear sexual violence at their college or university. Tragically, current campus practices and culture have failed to combat sexual assault on college campuses. The statistics are alarming: 20 percent of young women and 6 percent of young men will be victims of attempted or actual sexual assault. The responses of colleges and universities to this epidemic, however, have been woefully insufficient. A congressional survey of 350 schools found that 41% of the institutions had not conducted a single sexual assault investigation in five years, and 30% of campus law enforcement officials received no training on how to respond to reports of sexual violence. The problem is so widespread that the Department of Education is investigating 76 colleges and universities for how they handle their sexual assault cases.

SB 967 was thoughtfully developed in partnership with students, universities, and advocacy organizations to shift the culture on college campuses. It is also supported by University of California and the California State University system. Our public universities have consistently led our nation in thought – this legislation will also make our universities leaders in protecting students.

We hope you will sign this legislation into law to establish a model for sexual assault prevention around the country.

Sincerely,



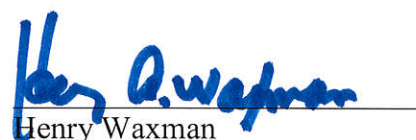
Jackie Speier
Member of Congress



Grace Napolitano
Member of Congress



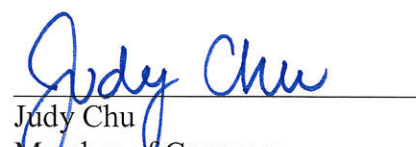
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